

# ARIZONA SENTINEL

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## ENORMOUS ENLARGEMENT OF THE SIPHON CANAL

Few people in Yuma know that steps are being taken by the United States government, or rather the Reclamation Commission, to enlarge the "siphon canal" all the way from Laguna dam to the so-called ten-mile drop; but such is the case, and one of the most eminent engineers in the federal service has been here in Yuma for the past three weeks making close estimates as to the cost of the proposed change and enlargement of the "siphon canal."

Without telling any tales out of school, or without in any manner committing anybody to an ultimate conclusion of the proposed change, it can be said that the change is now very seriously contemplated. Not only that but it can also be equally as frankly said that an enlargement of the canal now appears to be absolutely necessary—for many reasons.

It is well known by everybody in Yuma who has taken the pains to keep posted on conditions in the great Imperial Valley that that part of Southern California is woefully lack in its water supply. There is no earthly way to get this water, and get it at all times of the year, except to get it at Laguna Dam. This has been pointed out so often in the columns of the Yuma Daily Examiner, by the editor of this paper as staff writer, that it will appear as useless to the average citizen of Yuma to even mention it. However, the directors of the destinies of Imperial Valley are still dilly-dallying. They seem undecided as to what is best for them to do. They don't know whether they are a foot or horseback—spending money by the hundreds of thousands, and yet get no permanent good from the expenditure. Instead of boldly asking the right to connect with Yuma project at the great Laguna dam they seem better pleased to follow the will o' the wisp and sink their money in new "intakes," and constructing "dry" canals. That's their privilege.

In the meantime Uncle Sam has seen the hand-writing on the wall. He knows that very soon Imperial Valley must knock at Yuma's door, and being the farsighted old gentlemen that he is, always having his eyes open to the betterment of his children, he has ordered that the great siphon canal be enlarged—to what extent? Not double its present size, nor even treble its present size, but practically SIX TIMES ITS SIZE.

How does that strike the average Yumaite? When completed it will be among the largest irrigating canals in the world—and right here in Yuma. It will give a horsepower sufficient to light every house on the entire project, and then have power enough to spare to run all the trains between Los Angeles and Tucson. And it will furnish water enough to keep Imperial Valley "wet" the balance of its life. It will discharge 6,500 cubic feet of water per second, at the ten mile drop. If Imperial Valley doesn't want to make satisfactory arrangements to pick up this immense volume of water at that point—well, we will simply "spill" it back into the river, and then let Imperial Valley get it as best she can—only she must not attempt to construct another dam across the river at Hanlon Heading. That is a closed incident.

The engineer in charge of this investigation at the present time is none other than Joseph Jacobs, who is no stranger to the old-timers of this section of the country. He not only superintended the building of the Southern Pacific bridge here at Yuma, but he also has the very unique distinction of having run the first surveyor's line to construct the Gila Bend canal. That the latter was no greater success than it proved to be is no fault of the surveyor. His monuments are still there and had the "powers-that-be" listened to him—and he was then but a mere boy, just out of college Gila Bend would probably today be what Yuma is now destined to be—the greatest little city in all the west.

On with the good work, Mr. Jacobs. May your shadow never grow less. Imperial Valley will be glad to get the water that you provide down the enlarged siphon canal.

When Imperial Valley comes over to Yuma and asks connection with the great Laguna Dam, Imperial Valley will be some pumpkins. Until that time Imperial Valley will gradually become the laughing stock of the entire country. It is one thing to flim-flam, but it's entirely another thing to build a great heritage on a canal that is constantly filling up with sand and silt. A few millions will solve the problem. Better beat it while the beating is good, else, well, good night for Imperial Valley, for within five years half of it will be grown up to cactus while the other half will be inhabited by jackrabbits or asses.

All this talk about putting an embargo on "food stuffs" is all pure pun. Chairman Fitzgerald, whom we had the honor of meeting here in Yuma a couple of years ago, is a product of Tammany Hall. He always knows which side of his bread is buttered, in fact he is one of the real wise and sane men of Congress. But he knows an "embargo" on the food stuffs produced in this country would bring about more riots in America than starvation times would in Europe. Forget it. He doesn't mean anything of the kind, neither does any other man in congress.

### ANNOUNCEMENT.

With this issue the Arizona Sentinel changes hands, W. H. Shorey, former editor and proprietor, transferring all his rights and interests, as well as the editorship, to Benjamin Franklin Fly, former staff writer of the Yuma Daily Examiner, who will henceforth devote his entire time and energies to the Arizona Sentinel. All outstanding obligations will be met by W. H. Shorey; all future obligations are to be met by B. F. Fly.

(Signed)  
(Signed)

W. H. SHOREY.  
B. F. FLY.

### A PIONEER PUBLICATION WILL CHANGE HANDS

The Arizona Sentinel, the oldest newspaper in Arizona continuously published weekly since 1870, will change hands with the beginning of the new year and Col. Ben. Franklyn Fly, formerly staff correspondent with the Yuma Daily Examiner will become editor and owner and will conduct it solely to boost Yuma to the outside world. Yuma needs boosters and no one doubts that Colonel Fly with a newspaper at his command will give this section more of the right sort of publicity than it has ever received in the past.

The Arizona Sentinel was established in November, 1870, by James M. Barney and Judge William J. Berry, and was purchased in 1875 by John W. Dorrington, who relinquished to W. H. Shorey on July 1, 1911, and has been published for 46 years without missing an issue.

Other Arizona newspapers published earlier than the Sentinel have missed publication or have long since gone to their reward.

The Sentinel has a long lease on life, for Colonel Dorrington (now deceased), in relinquishing to the editor-owner of the Examiner in 1911, did so with the understanding that he would see to it that the Sentinel was published for another 40 years, all of which was done in good faith. The physical work of the Sentinel will be done at the Examiner Printery though it of course will cease to be the weekly edition of the Examiner, unless in future years Colonel Fly should cease to be its editor-owner, when the lease now made will revert back to W. H. Shorey.

Col. Fly will have the well wishes of the great mass of Yuma citizens in his new departure.—Yuma Daily Examiner.

### NEW OWNER FOR THE WEEKLY SENTINEL

Col. B. F. Fly announced yesterday afternoon that he had purchased the Arizona Sentinel, a weekly publication in Yuma, and that after January 1st he would be sole owner, manager, editor and supreme mogul. The Sentinel is one of the oldest weekly publications in the state. Col. Fly promises to put a whole lot of additional "pep and ginger" into the paper.—Sun.

### LARGA VIDA "SENTINEL."

El Coronel Benjamin Fly, reputado y antiguo periodista, acaba de comprar del Sr. W. H. Shorey, el antiguo Semanario "The Sentinel," y de seguro que cobrara nueva vida, con la capacidad, energia y aptitudes personales de su nuevo propietario.

Larga y feliz que sea la continuacion de tu vida, "Sentinel."—El Independientia.

## YUMA VALLEY'S DRAINAGE CANAL NOW UNDER WAY

One month ago the biggest "drag-line dredge" ever constructed reached Yuma. In order to get it here from the factory at Milwaukee, it required three ordinary flat cars to transport it. Not only that, but after it reached Yuma it required the extension of the Reclamation Railroad for upwards of a mile, down near the Mexican line, to take this monster dredger to a point where it begins operation. This may be a startling piece of news to some of our citizens, but it is a fact.

The dredger has begun plowing its way just above the dyke at the Mexican boundary and will continue to operate until it has excavated a drainage canal approximately twenty miles long, with a right-of-way of 150 feet. The canal itself will be about 30 feet at top, and 20 at the bottom, and about 8 feet deep, which will require the removal of something like 750,000 cubic yards of earth. When it shall have been completed it is calculated that Yuma Valley will forever be immune from all manner of seepage—in other words it will make Yuma Valley "the garden spot of the world."

Of course there are a few citizens in Yuma Valley whose lands may be hurt by the construction of this immense drainage canal, and yet the great good that it will do for the many, as against the damage it will do for the few, will ten times repay the valley for its building.

It has long been understood that when water gets within four feet of the surface that the owner of the land had as well move to some other place. Tests conducted by the Reclamation Service show that in many sections of Yuma

## THE YUMA MESA LAND BILL WILL SURE BECOME A LAW

Some of my friends have begun to chide me about the passage, or rather non-passage of the Yuma Mesa Land Bill, now pending in congress—especially since both Senator Ashurst and Congressman Hayden promised that, if it were physically possible, they would have the bill enacted into law and present it to us as a Christmas gift. No man in Yuma would love to see that bill passed better than I, though from a purely personal standpoint I have absolutely no interest in it. No man in the community realizes better than I what the passage of this bill means to Yuma and to the entire Yuma project. I have worked for it, dreamed about it, prayed for it, until I am almost black in the face.

And yet I fully realize, probably more than the average citizen, what efforts it takes to get such a measure through congress. I know both Senators Smith and Ashurst and Congressman Hayden have done every thing that it was physically possible for them to do in order to get this measure enacted into law, and yet up to the present time they have been unable to gratify our wishes. That's not their fault. When you stop to remember that the Yuma Mesa Land Bill was introduced only last April, and that there were some 16,000 bills ahead of it, you will have some conception of the difficulty our congressman has in forcing it through congress, with each congressman just as anxious for the passage of his bill as is our congressman for the passage of ours.

Just a little patience, just a little forbearance, just a little every-day-common-sense, and we will get the Yuma Mesa Land Bill enacted into law, and when this shall have been accomplished it must be remembered that the government has reversed itself on its land policy that has been in existence ever since we were a nation. But the bill will pass. The Yuma Mesa will yet be a garden of orange blossoms; those who own land on the mesa will be made thrice happy, and those who in after years come here to take up their abode on the mesa will bless those who brought about this great change.

### SALUTATORY.

With this issue of the "ARIZONA SENTINEL" it will be a new paper, in the sense that it will be edited by new hands. The late lamented Col. J. W. Dorrington builded his fortune on the foundation of the "Arizona Sentinel." He was far wiser than the present editor can ever hope to be, and yet with charity and good will towards all, and a determination to hew to the line may, per chance, bring the present editor some measure of glory, if not of fortune.

It may not be out of place to say, right here in the beginning, that this paper will not be used to abuse anybody. On the other hand the new editor has nothing but the very kindest of feelings towards the people of Yuma county and Yuma project. There have been times in the past when the editor of this paper, as staff writer for the Yuma Daily Examiner has seen fit to severely criticize certain individuals or certain things. He reserves the right to do the same even more boldly in the future than he has in the past, with the distinct understanding that he has no axe to grind, no "come back" at anybody, no special man or set of men to "boost" for this or that office. His mind is open—to be convinced at any time, without cost or without hope of favor. All he asks is an "even break." Shoot fair, and the editor will shoot with you. But woe be unto the public official who proves derelict in his duty.

I want none of my friends to come to me with their "tales of woe." I don't want to hear them. There is no space in this paper for anything along that line. Sensational court cases, street brawls, divorce matters, falling from the narrow paths, fights between husband and wife—all things of that character will never be printed in the Arizona Sentinel—go tell them to Chief of Police Levy, Constable Al Purcell or Sheriff Greenleaf—I have troubles of my own.

The truth of the matter is I have conceived the idea that the good people of Yuma county, Yuma project and the city of Yuma want a publication that will devote its whole time and attention to UPBUILDING this section of the country, rather than say some unkind word that is calculated to TEAR DOWN. It shall, therefore, be the aim of this paper to say everything GOOD that can be said of its patrons, and of the people in general of this community, regardless of whether they read this paper or not. It shall be a publication that you can feel a sense of pride in sending it to your friends in other parts of the country, for there shall never be anything printed in its columns that will not reflect the spirit of the editor—good fellowship, upbuilding, and an absolute spirit of fairness to everybody.

B. F. FLY, Editor and Owner.

Valley the water has reached the danger-point. That is why the government is now constructing this immense canal. It will forever preclude the possibility of seepage—the only thing one has to fear who has irrigated lands. The sooner the work shall have been completed the better for Yuma Valley. Let the good work proceed.